

Date: Wed, 22 Dec 93 06:35:24 PST
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #1495
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Wed, 22 Dec 93 Volume 93 : Issue 1495

Today's Topics:

 Bravo, Bravo +, etc. pager options and programming ?
 Coax recommendations?
 Designations for microwave bands?
 Don't try this at home
 DX Activity
 Ham Shops in Washington DC area?
 November 1981 QST
 R/C Aircraft (2 msgs)
 SoundBlaster Voice Keyer?
 what frequencies are marine band?
 Where are all the young enthusiasts?

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 22 Dec 93 13:17:21 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Bravo, Bravo +, etc. pager options and programming ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>>The paging company I use (SkyTel, aka National Satellite Paging) offers a
>>time-of-day page. You tell the terminal (via touch-tone input) the date
>and
>>time you want a page, and it pages you within a minute or two of that
>time.
>>Excellent for creating socially-acceptable excuses to leave meetings,
>>parties, visits with the in-laws, etc.

>>
>>It seems to me there may be a market for a stand-alone device of this
>type.
>>
>>-- Bruce Toback
>
>I carry an advisor by Motorola. It will display text messages also. It
>can be purchased with nat'l service or local service. It has an alarm
>built in to help you remember that important meeting or to get out of it.
> I have carried the "bravo" pager also and like both. Some options for
>the type of alert....ramp to full volume, short tones, vibration....ect.
>Battery life is about 3weeks, and I leave my pager on 100% of the time.
>The advisor uses a AAA and the bravo uses a AA.
>I hope this helps
>
>Just for the record, to use the text feature of the advisor the paging
>person in most cases must leave the page with an operator who transcribes
>it and sends it out. Software is avail. to send text pages via a
>computer and a modem.
>
>Rick Aldom

I am also attached to SkyTel's Skyword service and I have found it to be an excellent notification system. I am carrying a NEC FactsProvider which is an interesting pager. I have used the Motorola as well and both units have features in their favor. I have found the NEC to be a little easier to use but it doesn't track the date like the Motorola and there are no user programmable alert options. The NEC has an automatic backlight versus a manual one the Motorola.

As for SkyTel computer access, in addition to the touch-tone method, there are two other ways of contacting the system via modem. First, you can call 1-800-SKY-WORD from a dumb terminal/terminal program and enter text directly to the pager and perform all of the other functions as such as time-of-day. Second, you can call 1-800-SKY-MEMO and connect via a protocol known as TAP (Telelocator Alphanumeric Protocol). This protocol was designed to enable computers to talk to paging systems without having to deal with menu's and all the other nonsense a human would use. I got involved with alphanumeric pagers though a midnight engineering project to tie my E-Mail system into pager's to provide wireless notification. I have a 'C' source code provided by SkyTel which implements TAP. It is a good example of how to use TAP.

Robert de N2JTX

Robert G. Schaffrath, N2JTX	Internet: rgs%wpmax2%gfmida@uunet.uu.net
Systems Engineer	CompuServe: 76330,1057
Maxwell House Coffee Company	Phone: 914-335-2777

To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Bruce Toback (btoback@netcom.com) wrote:

> I've looked everywhere but in the right place, and I can't find a list of
> the alphabetic designations for microwave bands and the frequencies they
> represent (e.g., Ku-band, C-band, etc.).

Various publications have such lists, but be wary that there is not always agreement on which letter should be used. Some are pretty standard, like X-band (amateur 10GHz band, actually means something like 8.2 to 12.4GHz), and K-band (amateur 24GHz, actually means 18.0 to 26.5GHz). But for some bands, several letters have been used. Hewlett-Packard seemed to have their own set of letters which deviated (from normal UK usage) in places.

I think there is a table in the RSGB Microwave Handbook Vol 2 which, if I remember correctly, was supposed to include these different letter usages, plus the waveguide sizes. A HP catalog will mention some under the Microwave Test Accessories, but nowadays the letters only tend to be used for higher bands, eg 8GHz up.

I'll try and dig out a table, I think I even have an ASCII tabular version with all the waveguide sizes etc.

Steve Davies, davies@mobira.nmp.nokia.com, G4KNZ.

Date: 22 Dec 93 10:52:43 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!kd4nc!ke4zv!gary@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Don't try this at home
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Speaking of annoying line noise/RFI, the security system in our house is like a mini all-band transmitter and makes a real mess of SW listening from 2mhz to about 10mhz. It's the digital pulses coursing thru the wires throughout the house that does it. Bad buzz. You can tell when someone activates a sensor or opens a doors since you hear the warble change. Fascinating, but a real pain. Tried pulling the powersupply out of wall in basement for the security sys, but it is backed up by a batt. Anyone tried a ferrite choke on the lines coming out of security sys to try to trap this rf junk?

Thanks,

Mike

--

____--^^^--____--^^^--____--^^^--____--^^^-- Catch The WAVE ---____
Michael Mayer, Senior Technical Support Engineer

Visual Numerics, Inc. 32915 Aurora Rd. Suite # 160, Solon, OH, 44139 USA
Email: mayer@pvi.com Human: 216/248-4900 Fax: 216-248-2733

Date: Mon, 20 Dec 1993 19:34:13 GMT
From: pacbell.com!att-out!cbfsb!cbnews!bigtop!longs!n2ic@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: DX Activity
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Date: 22 Dec 93 12:57:43 GMT
From: ogicse!emory!europa.eng.gtefsd.com!wb2ekk@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: Ham Shops in Washington DC area?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Steve Bunis SE Southwest Chicago (doc@webrider.central.sun.com) wrote:
: Greetings -

: I'm going to be in the Washington DC area over Christmas. I'd
: be very interested in recommendations for Ham Stores in that
: area. I'll be visiting relatives in Springfield (about 10 mi.
: south of DC) but would be willing to drive some for a good store
: (read great selection/prices :).

There are two good ham stores in Northern VA: EEB on Mill Street in
Vienna, and HRO in Woodbridge. EEB is bigger and has more stuff on
display, HRO is often cheaper. Look in any issue of QST for their
addresses, or call 411 information, or get on the 146.91 repeater
for directions.

John WB2EKK

Date: 22 Dec 93 13:43:09 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: November 1981 QST
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I'm toying with the idea of building the "High Performance Communications Receiver" presented in chapter 30 of the 1994 Handbook. I haven't really checked for parts availability yet, so I don't know if that'll be a problem. The article begins by saying that this project was originally presented in QST, November 1981. It also says the project was "progressive",

so I don't know if that means it spans several issues. Anyway, I'm making a short story long here. What I'm after is back issues of QST (the articles at least). I've checked at the public library here, but they don't subscribe. They told me it could take 4 weeks or more via inter-library loan because of the holidays and staffing etc. If anyone could help, I'd be glad to mail a large SASE plus a couple of bucks for photocopying.

Please respond to lee@hvsun40.mdc.com

Thanks. (6 1/2 weeks and still waiting)

Tom

Date: Mon, 20 Dec 1993 13:16:53 -0700
From: orca.es.com!cnn.sim.es.com!msanders.sim.es.com!user@uunet.uu.net
Subject: R/C Aircraft
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Dec20.135830.2042@brtph560.bnr.ca>,
jwittich@b4pph107.bnr.ca (Jeffrey Wittich) wrote:

>
> Greg says:
>
> > Bear in mind, when you think about flying it anywhere, that you have
> > a liability problem. You can't fly R/C, and be insured, except at an
> > AMA sanctioned field.
>
> No such thing as an AMA sanctioned field. There are AMA Chartered
> clubs, and AMA sanctioned events, but no AMA sanctioned fields.
>
> > I'd hope that if you're a ham you'd make use of your license and use
> > the 50Mhz band.
>
> But PLEASE when you want to upgrade your radio, DO NOT put it up
> for sale on consignment in a local hobby shop. The hobby dealer
> (unless he is a ham) does not care who buys it, ham or not.
> Not long ago at our local field, there was a new fellow flying
> the coveted black flag on his antenna (ham band xmitter). I strolled
> over to have a closer look and identify myself to the new flyer.
> After asking a few questions and discovering that not only was the
> fellow not a ham, but also did not know he was on a ham band. I
> mentioned that he should probably should not be using that radio
> and may want to return it. Well, I found out what TEMPER really
> can be. I dont think Ill do that again!
>

> C ya. Jeff AC4Z0.

Jeff:

Technically you are correct. However, AMA clubs can insure for liability at their flying fields. If, during an AMA sanctioned event, someone falls off a bleacher, trips and breaks an ankle, etc., the club is insured to cover that accident even though it was not caused by a model. The clubs can also have the owner of the field covered by AMA insurance. We have presented certificates of insurance to farmers located within reasonable flight patterns of our flying field.

And Jeff: you performed a great service in informing the non-ham that he needed a license. It is a hard thing to do, often causes bad feelings, but I would hope that you will do it the next time too. You have my vote!! We had a run-in with a flier who came out on the field during a fun fly, and during a lull, he warned us that he was using the "old" frequencies (i.e. 72.140 - red/white, etc.) Our club president walked over and told him he could not fly with those frequencies and got the same kind of treatment you did. The rest of us backed up the club president and the flier went away mad, but went away knowing that we would not tolerate his disregard of the law. Bravo for you Jeff!!

Milt

--

=====

Opinions, thoughts, &cetera are my own (when I can remember them).

"He flies the sky
Like an Eagle in the eye
of a hurricane that's abandoned."

KB7MSF
UTAH

America

Date: Mon, 20 Dec 1993 13:24:33 -0700
From: orca.es.com!cnn.sim.es.com!msanders.sim.es.com!user@uunet.uu.net
Subject: R/C Aircraft
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <1993Dec20.135830.2042@brtph560.bnr.ca>,
jwittich@b4pph107.bnr.ca (Jeffrey Wittich) wrote:

>

> Greg says:

>

>

> But PLEASE when you want to upgrade your radio, DO NOT put it up
> for sale on consignment in a local hobby shop. The hobby dealer
> (unless he is a ham) does not care who buys it, ham or not.

>

> C ya. Jeff AC4Z0.

Right on Jeff!!

Many hobby dealers, or at least some of their staff have no clue. One store manager sold a guy a regular 4 channel airplane radio to fly his new helicopter, and didn't know the difference. Yes, there is a big difference!! The heli radio has electronically coupled throttle/collective, has automatic tail rotor inputs for increase/decrease collective, has throttle hold functions which uncouple the throttle and collective for practicing power off landings (autorotations), etc. etc. etc.

This same store manager had purchased a heli radio without knowing it, was flying his airplane with it (yes it works fine for that), but hit a switch to raise his landing gear. This switch was the "invert" switch which puts some of the control functions backwards for flying a helicopter upside down. The guy pulled back on the stick to raise the nose of the airplane, and it went nose down and destroyed itself as it impacted the runway. He didn't know what he had, refused to read the instructions, and was upset at the radio for doing just what it was designed to do. Yet, he is a hobby shop store manager. Watch out for the lids guys.

Milt

--

=====

Opinions, thoughts, &cetera are my own (when I can remember them).

"He flies the sky
Like an Eagle in the eye
of a hurricane that's abandoned."

KB7MSF
UTAH

America

Date: Mon, 20 Dec 1993 18:17:16 GMT

From: psinntp!relay1!ecdcsvr!klf@uunet.uu.net
Subject: SoundBlaster Voice Keyer?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Hi all, I'm sure this subject has been hit B4, but is there any software available to run a soundblaster or equivalent card as a voice keyer? I'd prefer a Windows program. Just thought I'd test the waters B4 I'd try to roll my own. 73 and Tnks.....

De Ken KA3PLS...
klf@ecdcsvr.tredydev.unisys.com

Date: Tue, 21 Dec 1993 19:47:04 GMT
From: swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!csc.ti.com!tilde.csc.ti.com!cauldron!ra.csc.ti.com!fstop.csc.ti.com!linnig@network.ucsd.edu
Subject: what frequencies are marine band?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Here is a list of VHF marine frequencies that I got off the net...

156.275 MC <65> (port operations)	156.300 MS <6> (intership safety)
156.325 MC <66> (port operations)	156.350 MC <7> (commercial)
156.375 MC <67> (commercial)	156.400 MC <8> (commercial)
156.425 MC <68> (non-commercial)	156.450 MC <9> (commercial)
156.475 MC <69> (non-commercial)	156.500 MC <10> (commercial)
156.525 MS <70> (non-commercial)	156.550 MC <11> (commercial)
156.575 MC <71> (non-commercial)	156.600 MC <12> (port operations)
156.625 MS <72> (non-commercial)	156.650 MC <13> (navigational)
156.675 MC <73> (port operations)	156.700 MC <14> (port operations)
156.725 MC <74> (port operations)	156.750 MC <15> (environmental)
156.800 MC <16> (calling/distress)	156.850 MC <17> (state control)
156.875 MS <77> (commercial)	156.900 MC <18> (commercial)
156.925 MC <78> (non-commercial)	156.950 MC <19> (commercial)
156.975 MC <79> (commercial)	157.000 MC <20> (port operations)
157.025 MC <80> (commercial)	157.050 MG <21>
157.075 MG <81>	157.100 MG <22>
157.125 MG <82>	157.150 MG <23>
157.175 MG <83>	157.200 MP <24> (ship)
157.225 MP <84> (ship)	157.250 MP <25> (ship)
157.275 MP <85> (ship)	157.300 MP <26> (ship)
157.325 MP <86> (ship)	157.350 MP <27> (ship)
157.375 MP <87> (ship)	157.400 MP <28> (ship)
157.425 MS <88> (commercial)	

-- Mike, N5QAW

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- - - - - + - - - - - +
Mike Linnig, Texas Instruments Inc. | 97.43% of all statistics are made |
Phone: (214) 575-3597                | up; most of them (83.6 percent) |
Internet: mike.linnig@dseg.ti.com    | are wrong.                |
- - - - -
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Date: Tue, 21 Dec 1993 21:48:27 GMT
From: olivea!news.bu.edu!news.bbn.com!petra!zds-oem!news@uunet.uu.net (Earl Morse)
Subject: Where are all the young enthusiasts?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <CIEC97.F6x@cbnewsi.cb.att.com> warnerg@cbnewsi.cb.att.com
(george.t.warner) writes:

>
>>Where are all the young enthusiasts?
>
>They are waiting for the obsolete code requirements to be eliminated.
>
Enjoy the wait.

Date: 21 Dec 1993 16:40:41 -0600
From: swrinde!gatech!concert!corpgate!crchh327.bnr.ca!kharker@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <CIEC97.F6x@cbnewsi.cb.att.com>,
<msanders-211293114849@msanders.sim.es.com>, <CIEH0B.2wB@news.iastate.edu>
Subject : Re: Where are all the young enthusiasts?

Oh great. Another worthwhile thread ruined by this insidious code/no-code
debate. Sorry guys, but this is another one going into my kill file...

_ken/n1pvb
"I do not speak for BNR"

Date: (null)
From: (null)
Hmmm, you didn't mention an important piece of information - what time are
you listening on 20 meters ?

If you are listening at night, then I understand your problem. We are about 2/3 of the way down the sunspot cycle. Combine that with winter time (i.e. not too many hours to ionize the F-layer), and you have a dead band from 2 hours after sunset until an hour before sunrise. For Europe on 20 meters from North America, your best bet is from local sunrise until about 1800Z (i.e. 2 hours after Europe sunset).

On the more positive side, no, you won't have to wait until the year 2002. Summertime will provide those EU openings that you know and love !

Steve, N2IC/0

Date: 21 Dec 1993 02:46:53 -0600
From: usc!yeshua.marcam.com!zip.eecs.umich.edu!umn.edu!news.d.umn.edu!not-for-mail@network.ucsd.edu
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <CI3KDB.CK2@srigenprp.sr.hp.com>, <93350.161620WKOEHLER@ESOC.BITNET>, <CICJFH.8wp@wang.com>
Subject : Re: Optimum call sign for CW/contests?

>>The fastest, i.e. shortest, good callsign for CW contesting would
>>certainly be N5EA.
>
>No. The best callsign for CW contesting would be KZ10.

Just for an interesting tidbit, we have a local radio station (as in music) that's call letters are KZI0.

QUESTION: Does anyone know how I would find a packet address for someone, if I know their call?

Jeremy KB0JBZ /KT

--
Jeremy Remer |jremer@ub.d.umn.edu | - ____ -
Computer Science Major |jremer@oldub.d.umn.edu | |/_|____|\\|
University of Minnesota, Duluth. |jremer@nyx.cs.du.edu | __|/_|____|\\|__

Date: 21 Dec 1993 21:41:52 GMT
From: slinky.cs.nyu.edu!longlast.cs.nyu.edu!jackson@nyu.arpa
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <1993Dec20.164130.9865@n5ial.mythical.com>,

<CIEC97.F6x@cbnews1.cb.att.com>, <msanders-211293114849@msanders.sim.es.com>
Subject : Re: Where are all the young enthusiasts?

Why am I interested?

Profile: 23 years old, train commuter to NYC weekdays, car commuter to Phila. weekends. Computer enthusiast for ~12 years. Scanner enthusiast for 8 years. Part-time SWL'r for 2 years.

I have a scanner and a CB in my car. When I drive, I monitor 9 most of the time for people who need help. I call on 9 anytime I see people stranded in an area that I've been able to make contact in the past, or have a feeling someone is listening (can see the State Police Barracks from the road).

I listen to the scanner to plan traffic routes (and to know to pull over a few seconds before a high speed chase comes up my back!). I used to have a bad problem of falling asleep at the wheel. 19 has come to my rescue by keeping me up and talking more than once. More and more often, lately, I've been finding just a bunch of undesirables (undesired by me, at least) ruining the conversation after one or two comebacks. Not my cup of tea. If OT's are welcoming, I know I'll hear nicer hams on the nets.

My primary interests are packet comms, VHF/UHF voice, and DX CW. I love PC networking and am very interested in learning lots about amateur radio networking.

As for voice, I read once that you can't go anywhere without being covered by a 2m repeater somewhere (obviously proved wrong by the guy who ended up having to call the sheriff on an admin freq). All too often have I come across someone that needs SOME kind of help and 19 and 9 are dead and useless. I'm sure I could join a net somewhere between Philadelphia and New York where I would be able to autopatch to police/fire/rescue. I would even be interested in setting up a repeater ONLY for emergency communications, since I have a feeling the NYC metro area is pretty much saturated with 2m repeaters.

How did I become interested?

2 years ago Saturday (hint-hint), my parents gave me an analog shortwave radio from Sharper Image. The kind that has modern electronics inside, but is a replica of a fifties style radio on the outside. The dial has pointers to different countries/cities on its face. However, at around 150MHz, it has PAGERS written on it! Of course its true, but it's also supposed to be a replica from forty years ago! I was amazed at how many stations I could pick up with that longwire antenna. Just tape it all the way around the room where the walls meet the ceiling and turn the radio on.. had me hooked the first day. I even took Japanese lessons ;-). Now I can order a table for two in a non-smoking section of a restaurant.

In addition, listening to public service on the scanner may bore some people, but I love it. I can't walk very well some days, so instead of being an EMT or a firefighter, I am more interested in being just another pair of eyes on the road for the respective agencies.

I guess I'm most interested in exchanging public service frequency information and monitoring tips with people around the country and helping to provide communications to agencies of an emerging situation when it seems to have gone unnoticed. I never did get a chance to thank the ham that autopatched to Lawrence Twp PD when I came across the four car smashup and no one was monitoring 9 (including him).

And finally, a few years ago, I saw an NBC Nightly News special about the war in the former Yugoslavia. They showed a shack and opened a sentence with, "according to ham radio operators here who have been in contact with the locals..." Boy did that get my ears perked! I really want to know CW since it's supposed to be the best for the absolute worst case scenario. (I mean worst!)

Unsolicited, but hey..

--

Steven Jackson

Assistant to the Chair of Comp Sci
jackson@cs.nyu.edu, jcksnste@acfcluster

New York University

Courant Inst. of Mathematical Sciences
251 Mercer St, Room 411, NY 10012

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #1495

